

Johnstown, writes: Revival meeting has been very encouraging. Large crowds, many under conviction.

Brother Flora is busy at work as evangelist of the State of Indiana. He reports another accession at Dutchtown, and the organization there about ready to build a new house.

Brother Gillin reports two accessions, one by relation from the G. B.'s, the other a soul reclaimed. There seems to be a constant revival in Brother Gillin's congregations, which of course is as it ought to be.

Services are now in progress in the South Bend congregation, conducted by the pastor, brother W. D. Furry. One confession when last heard from, with others interested, and the church in good condition spiritually.

Notes and Comments

Absolute Surrender.—The following story illustrates an important truth:

A little child was one day playing with a very valuable vase, when he put his hand into it and could not withdraw it. His father, too, tried his best to get it out, but all in vain. They were talking of breaking the vase, when the father said:

"Now, my son, make one more try; open your hand, hold your fingers out straight, as you see me doing, and then pull."

To their astonishment, the little fellow said: "Oh, no, papa, I couldn't put out my fingers like that, for if I did, I would drop my penny." How many of us are like him! Held prisoners by our own desires.

The Princeton Inn.—The bar connected with Princeton University has caused a great deal of discussion, and not a little censure. We are pleased to learn that the University has felt the pressure of the sentiment against the sale of intoxicating drink under its jurisdiction. President Patton and James O. Murray, Dean of the Faculty have attached their signature to the following letter which is being sent to patrons of the school:

DEAR SIR: At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees, the following action was taken. The faculty was instructed to enforce literally and strictly, as well as impartially, this law chapter, Section 8:

"No student shall bring, or cause to be brought, into college or keep in his room any spirituous or fermented liquors, nor shall he frequent any place where intoxicating liquors are sold as a beverage."

We take the liberty of informing you of this important action of the trustees, and also of earnestly soliciting your kind cooperation in carrying out their action by such counsel to your son as will secure the end in view.

What is Needed.—There are many things needed, and still more wanted, but the one need which it seems to us is above all others, is the one set forth in the following from an exchange:

The last and greatest canon of speaking is *Intensify*, and it will be freely granted that the want of present day preaching is spiritual passion. Of intellectual and social passion there is enough in the pulpit, and one has ever been amazed at the most strange of all enthusiasms, critical passion, when a preacher has become quite hot over the authorship of the Pentateuch. What is wanting, and what cannot be wanted, is the sense of the unseen and eternal—of the everlasting love of God, the atoning sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ, the unspeakable value of a single soul, the infinite pathos of human life, the tenderness of the Holy Ghost, and the graciousness of the Evangel.

Christ Our Solution.—We heartily agree with the *Churchman* that the teachings of Jesus alone will solve the present day problem:

We are quite aware that Christian traders and capitalists are in many instances just as anxious as Chris-

tian teachers, to solve the problem of a better distribution of material prosperity and happiness in the world. We are equally well aware that such a distribution demands the co-operation of poor and rich alike. But the truth remains that Christ never looked upon poverty in the sense of destitution as the right and normal condition of human life. If the poor are always to be found in the world, it is undoubtedly because "man's inhumanity to man" is a permanent fact of evil. Whether the inhumanity be of the rich man, or of the poor, it is none the less true that a gradual solution of the great problem of the present day can only be expected when the teaching of Christ shall be allowed to overrule the teaching of political economy.

Preach the Word.—The paramount duty of the gospel minister is to preach the Word, preach it because the people want to hear it, because they need to hear it, because it is the only way of salvation, preach it because God commands it. President Raymond, of West Virginia University, in urging ministers to preach the Word, tells the following pointed story:

He said that a young pastor in a college town was embarrassed by the thought of criticism in his cultivated congregation. He sought counsel from his father, an old and wise itinerant, saying: "Father, I am hampered in my ministry in the pulpit I am now serving. If I cite anything from geology, there is Professor A, teacher of this science, right before me. If I use an illustration in Roman mythology, then there is Professor B, ready to trip me up for my little inaccuracy. If I instance something in English literature that pleases me, I am cowed by the presence of the learned man who teaches that branch. What shall I do?" The sagacious old man replied: "Do not be discouraged. Preach the simple gospel—they probably know very little of that."

QUERIES AND ANSWERS

If a man carries a certificate of membership from a certain church in the brotherhood and refuses to deposit in the church where he lives, which of the two churches should own him in case he should appeal for help in settling any difficulty that may arise between him and his brother?

The man is not a member of any church until he deposits his certificate of membership. In the state from which this query comes such a certificate must be deposited in some congregation thirty days after its date, and failure to do so, unless a good excuse can be given, invalidates the certificate. The person referred to above has no right to appeal to any church for the help indicated. The truth is he belongs "nowhere," and there is the place he ought to go for help.

What is a church letter?

A church letter is a certificate setting forth the relation a member bears to the congregation from which the letter is granted, or rather the relation he sustained to the congregation when the letter was given.

Is it proper or is it the practice of the Brethren church to grant letters to persons desiring to unite with other denominations in the same neighborhood?

Such is not the general practice of the Brethren church, but it is being done by some.

Is it the practice of the Brethren church to give letters to persons who offer no excuse?

We suppose the querist means those who give no reason for asking for the church letter. If that is the meaning then we say it is

not the practice of our people to grant letters in that way.

Can a letter be given consistently to any one who disbelieves some of the teachings and practices of the Brethren church?

This is the question to which the other three are but the introduction. If it had not been that this question was following, answers to the foregoing might have been a little different. A letter can be given, and that consistently, to members who wish to unite with other churches because of a change in their views on certain doctrinal questions, but such letters must of necessity, be worded differently from the ordinary form of church letter. You could not recommend such a one as in "full fellowship and communion with the brethren," for the moment he ceases to have faith in the doctrines of the church he ceases to be in full fellowship with us. But there certainly can be no harm in granting such a one a letter setting forth his standing so far as his Christian character is concerned. See to it that your letter states the truth as to the standing of the person to whom it is given.

AN EXAMPLE TO BE IMITATED

Wholesale dismissals have been made at Stanford University for inferiority in college work, immorality, and vulgarity. Forty-one students have been dropped for making themselves notorious by drinking, carousing, and parading the streets of San Francisco when their football team defeated the State University team, on Thanksgiving Day. Their acts were so offensive that their names were taken, and this is the penalty. President Jordan recently announced that idle and dissolute students are a hindrance to good work by the industrious, and that they would be dismissed. The competition for students and the ambition for large and increasing numbers account for the decline of discipline; and many parents and guardians who would naturally send students to the largest institutions have recently been sending them to smaller ones, not willing to place them where presidents and professors are mere phantoms, except in the class room or the office of the executive head, and where no restriction is placed upon the recreations or habits of students until they make a public scandal.—*Ex.*

SELECTED GEMS

A thousand hands are outstretched to help onward the young person who is striving for a larger and nobler life. Every step of the upward way is marked by words of cheer and by deeds of encouragement. The great who have gone before and the worthy who live now combine to inspire and uplift the aspiring young Christian.

When by our words we bring sunshine to some darkened soul, hope to some down-trodden brother or sister, good cheer to those in despondency,—when we tell some lost one "the old, old story," we are using our tongues for God.